

EDINA PARK BOARD
7:00 P.M.
CENTRUM BUILDING
CENTENNIAL LAKES PARK
AUGUST 14, 2001

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom White, Floyd Grabiell, Karla Sitek, Andy Finsness
Make Damman, Ardis Wexler, Linda Presthus, George
Klus

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dave Fredlund, John Murrin

STAFF PRESENT: John Keprios, Ed MacHolda, Janet Canton, Tom Shirley

OTHERS PRESENT: Bill Morris, Diane Traxler

I. APPROVAL OF THE TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 2001 PARK BOARD MINUTES

George Klus MOVED TO APPROVE THE TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 2001 PARK BOARD MINUTES. Floyd Grabiell SECONDED THE MOTION.

Ardis Wexler made grammatical changes on pages 5, 6, 7 and 8.

MINUTES APPROVED.

II. EDINBOROUGH PARK/CENTENNIAL LAKES PARK PRESENTATION – TOM SHIRLEY

Tom Shirley, Manager of Centennial Lakes/Edinburgh Park, handed out the business plan for Centennial Lakes/Edinburgh park that he put together along with Eric Anderson, Assistant City Manager. He pointed out that the plan explains what they are currently trying to do as well as points out some of the different issues they will be facing in the near future.

Mr. Shirley indicated that this year both Edinburgh Park and Centennial Lakes Park have been very successful. The Edinburgh Great Hall has been packed with people in the wintertime and Centennial Lakes Park has been full of people in the summer as well as with ice skaters in the winter. Mr. Shirley explained that at Centennial Lakes approximately one out of five people using the park at any given time are from Edina. He added that people are coming from 15 to 20 miles away to use the park. He stated that at Edinburgh Park one out of four people using the park is from Edina.

Mr. Shirley pointed out that they break down their different amenities into revenue generating and non-revenue generating. He stated that last year at the 18 hole environmental putting course they did approximately 27,000 rounds. He noted that this year they are down just a little bit because of the weather. Mr. Shirley commented that at Edinborough Park they have the skating rink, indoor pool, running track and banquet hall. He stated that the Great Hall is their largest money maker which last year generated approximately \$150,000. Last year all but two Saturdays were rented for the Great Hall on the weekends.

Mr. Shirley explained that at Centennial Lakes their room rentals have also become very popular. He noted that between May and November there were only two Saturdays available. He indicated that they also do a lot of business rentals Monday through Thursday. Next month there is only one day that hasn't been rented.

Mr. Shirley stated that at Centennial Lakes this year they are going to end up with approximately 5,000 paddle boat rentals by the end of the season. He indicated that they also have a concession stand in the summer by the paddle boats and the Centrum Building concessions stand gets busy in the winter during the outdoor ice skating season. Mr. Shirley commented that croquet has picked up a little bit this year but it is still not up to where they would like it to be and they are monitoring the area to see what happens.

Mr. Shirley indicated that the main non-revenue generating amenity they have at Edinborough Park is the large play area in the Great Hall. He noted that when the weather is not cooperating they are extremely busy. He stated that the indoor play structure is very busy year around, however, it is 14 years old and we can no longer find replacement parts for worn or broken equipment. He added that it is the most heavily used play structure in the city. He noted that so far they have lost one slide and are getting ready to lose a couple of other things. Unfortunately, the space limitations are going to really cause some problems because there isn't a lot of room.

Mr. Shirley noted that the pathway system at Centennial Lakes is 1 ½ miles around and heavily used by walkers and joggers and added that it's picking up all the time. He stated that currently they have 28 swinging benches around the park

Mr. Shirley commented that fishing at Centennial Lakes has been fun to see developing. There are a lot of fish in the lake and currently they are offering a couple of programs with the DNR where the kids can sign up for fishing programs. He noted the DNR is going to be coming in to sample the lake to see what kind of fish they have and will start monitoring the oxygen levels of the water because they are hoping to put in some large mouth bass next year. He pointed out this is all being done for free because the DNR is trying to promote fishing for children in Minnesota.

Mr. Shirley pointed out that the Edina Model Yacht Club is based out of Centennial Lakes Park and they currently have 140 members. They typically sail three to four nights

a week with some special programs during the summer. He noted they are a very active group and a lot of people go there just to watch them.

Mr. Shirley stated that the outdoor skating rink is also very popular, however, last year they dropped in numbers because of the cold weather.

Mr. Shirley pointed out that last year they had a record year for their association fees, building rentals, green fees, equipment rental and concessions. He noted that even with a record year they came up with a bottom line of approximately \$143,000 in the red. He explained that everyone now realizes that this is probably as good as it's going to get. Therefore, they are now trying to figure out what can be done to take care of that deficit in-house. They are looking at possibly now charging a fee for some of the areas that currently have no fee such as the Great Hall play area to capture some revenue. The vast majority of people that are there are in there for free. These are some of the things they are going to be looking at. Mr. Keprios indicated that the good news on the financial statement is that, since Mr. Shirley took over as manager, he has been able to reduce the deficit each year. Mr. Shirley keeps finding new ways to generate income and reduce expenses.

Mr. Klus asked about the association fees to which Mr. Shirley explained that all of the different residents and businesses pay a monthly fee to us. Ms. Presthus asked if the fee changes to which Mr. Shirley replied that the residents pay a flat fee of \$15.00 that will always stay at \$15.00, however, everyone else does have a cost of living increase built into their association fee. Mr. Damman asked if the association fees are continuous or limited to which Mr. Shirley replied that the association fee goes on forever.

Mr. Finsness asked if the surveys that were done which indicated that one out of five people in the park is an Edina resident combined both summer and winter to which Mr. Shirley replied yes.

Ms. Presthus asked about catering. Mr. Shirley explained that they allow any licensed caterer to come into the building, however, they charge 6% of the food costs just to be there. Mr. Shirley also noted that they have a beverage service that they contract with and they receive \$1.00 for every person that comes in the door for weddings, etc., which is also a revenue source for them.

Ms. Presthus noted that last year Centennial Lakes hosted an after Sweetheart Dance program that was a terrific program. However very few people came and the reason she thinks is because it wasn't very well publicized. She asked if there was another way it could be promoted a little more for the coming year. Mr. Shirley indicated that he will work again this year with Donna Tilsner, Recreation Supervisor, and they will do a better job at getting the word out this coming year.

Everyone thanked Mr. Shirley for the great job he and his staff have done for Edina.

III. RECREATIONAL FACILITIES REFERNDUM ANALYSIS – DECISION RESOURCES

Mr. Keprios introduced Bill Morris and Diane Traxler from Decision Resources to the Park Board. He indicated that Decision Resources were incredibly helpful throughout the whole referendum process. He stated that upon request he asked Mr. Morris and Ms. Traxler to attend the Park Board meeting to give a quick snapshot of what happened.

Bill Morris explained that ten days prior to the referendum they did what they call a fast track survey. This survey was able to determine which groups were in favor and which groups were opposed as well as what the general direction was. Unfortunately, at that point in time there was great momentum on the opposing side. Mr. Morris stated that there were a number of things that came into play in this referendum that they haven't seen in other referendums they have worked on.

Mr. Morris commented that the first thing is there was a very well organized opposition. The opposition was in fact so good that ten days prior to the referendum they actually contacted more people than the supporter groups had. Mr. Morris indicated that the city did a great job in terms of what it set out to do which was to provide information. By the time the referendum occurred 84% of the people surveyed indicated that they had received the city information and felt they were knowledgeable enough to make a decision.

Mr. Morris pointed out that three groups were really the key in this referendum. One group was the opposition who mobilized very, very effectively and those were the people living outside of the Edina Public School District but within the City of Edina. The reason why so many of those people were against it was because they did not see anything in it for them. Therefore, the people whose children were not in the Edina School District as well empty nesters living in those school districts overwhelmingly indicated that they would vote no on the referendum.

Mr. Morris stated that a surprise occurred with respect to households containing school age children who actually attended the Edina public schools. He explained that usually the referendums in the past the school district routinely has been able to hold 85% to 95% of those households in the various bond referendums. This time, however, we lost 40% of those households. The key reason dealt with the operating costs issues. Voters were fearful that the school district would have too great a risk in assuming potential operating losses associated with the new facilities, which would result in the loss of certain school programs. The opposition did a very good job of talking about certain programs that might be at risk. He indicated that no one was actually sure if the school district would be required to cover X amount or Y amount. In the telephone survey that was done residents were aware that there may be reason for concern and rather than take a chance the easiest thing to do was to vote no.

The third factor that came into play was there were a lot of older empty nesters that were well organized. The key there was they thought that much of this was going more

towards the schools which in short took out things that they would have liked to have seen. As a result, they voted no because they felt it was too heavy on the athletic programs.

Mr. Morris pointed out that these three groups then provided the amount of the margin that was necessary for the vote no to carry the election. He stated that there was enough uncertainty that the majority did vote no.

Ms. Traxler indicated that Mr. Keprios did a great job of going out to the various meetings and community groups and keeping the people informed. Ms. Traxler stated that she felt that unfortunately there was a certain lack of enthusiasm among some of the people who volunteered to work with the vote yes group.

Mr. White asked Decision Resources if in their survey they asked the people what school their kids attended. He noted that it was his impression that a lot of parents with kids who attended the French Immersion School were very much against it. Ms. Traxler replied that they were aware that a lot of the French Immersion parents were unhappy. She noted that they divided the survey by school district but not by individual schools because the sample wasn't large enough to do that. Mr. White stated that it was his sense that a lot of Edina teachers weren't in favor of the referendum and that a lot of people listened to the teachers. Mr. White asked if people in the survey were asked if anyone was providing an influence on them as to how to vote and what was influencing them. Mr. Morris replied that they did ask whether or not they had been contacted and if so by whom. He stated that the no group did a much better job of contacting even non-Edina public school portions of the district. He added that the opposition basically knew where the key votes would be in terms of the people who said there is nothing in it for us.

Mr. White asked if there was any sort of polling done after the election. He also noted that he has heard that the school district is considering another referendum even as early as this fall. Ms. Traxler stated that they are not aware of any upcoming Edina School District referendum and Decision Resources has not been contacted to do any follow up polling at this time.

Mr. Grabiell asked Decision Resources if they learned anything that might suggest that a referendum done by just the City would have done better if it were not combined with the school district. Mr. Morris pointed out that certainly the key on this was the confusion over operating costs. Had the operating costs question not come up in terms of having an impact on the school budget it would have taken away one of the key arguments that was used by the no group. He noted that you are always going to have people who are going to vote no because of the tax increase. However, it is our belief that the operating cost issue is what cost the referendum.

Ms. Presthus asked Ms. Traxler on what basis she made the statement that she didn't feel the associations had enthusiastically participated. Ms. Traxler replied that of all of the associations that were asked to do phoning only various ones showed up. She indicated

that in order for the referendum to pass they needed to have support from the people who are on the sports organizations and that support did not show up at the campaign.

Mr. Keprios indicated that the referendum lost by a 7% margin and asked Decision Resources what is typically advised given this percentage of a loss as to when to come back with another referendum. Mr. Morris responded that with a 3% to 4% margin of loss they typically recommend coming back very rapidly. Given that it is a 7% difference it is going to require a different proposal, although not in its entirety. It would need to change enough so that people understand that you are not going back to the same thing.

Mr. Keprios commented that what he found interesting was that in the 1996 referendum there were less than 4,700 voters total who showed up at the polls and there was not one negative letter sent to the editor and yet 23% of the voters voted no. In this referendum there were 13,000 voters who showed up for the special election and over 5,700 voted yes. The interest was extremely high, however, the organized opposition was successful in recruiting enough no votes to win the day.

Mr. White asked Decision Resources if they think it makes more sense to have the referendum as part of the general election or does it make more sense to have a special election. Mr. Morris replied that he did discuss that issue in passing with a couple of people from the city. He indicated that one thing you want to avoid is being put on the ballot the same time a school district also has a referendum on the ballot because invariably what happens throughout the metro area is that the voters will typically approve one or neither and rarely both. The one thing with a general election is that the turnout is usually very high. Mr. White commented that it seems to him that with a special election the people who are motivated to vote are going to get there and especially if they are going to vote no they are going to make every effort to be there. But the people who maybe aren't motivated either way might likely vote yes. Mr. White pointed out that he didn't find the yes voters to be as for the referendum as he found the no voters to be against it. He commented that it just seems to him that if you had it in a general election you get a better turnout and have a better chance of success. Ms. Traxler pointed out that during a general election it is severely important how the ballot is worded because if a person walks into a balloting booth totally unaware there is a referendum on the ballot, that wording is going to sway the voter one way or another. Mr. Morris noted that the focus of the campaign changes if you have a special election because the focus then becomes turnout which means your focus is to make sure that your supportive people get out and vote. In a general election, the focus becomes a city-wide information campaign to make sure that nobody goes to the polls uninformed because an uninformed voter will vote no.

Ms. Presthus pointed out that there is legislation out that is trying to stop all special referendums and they can only be put on general elections. This is something to keep in mind because there might not be the option to hold a special election next session.

Mr. Keprios indicated that the Park Board is going to talk about how they can identify and meet our recreational facility needs. He noted that some of the suggestions they have

come up with is possibly meeting with the School Board, meeting with individuals who have actively opposed the referendum and those who have supported the referendum. The Park Board has also asked about doing a follow-up community survey and establishing a sub-committee or task force. Lastly, they will give a report with their findings and recommendations to the City Council. Mr. Keprios asked Decision Resources if they could offer any advice on that approach.

Ms. Traxler stated that she would not recommend another joint effort with the school district because it simply did not work in this case. Also, if park and recreation needs money in the near future it certainly would be better to go for a lesser amount.

Ms. Wexler asked Decision Resources what the chances are of the school district going for another referendum with a lesser number. Ms. Traxler commented that she does not know what the school district's plans are at this point in time. Mr. Morris indicated in order for the school district to be successful they are going to have to find on-going funding sources for additional operating expenses, since that became the key issue in the referendum. The school district will have to find a way to fund additional operating expenses incurred from any new school district athletic facilities without taking money away from their current programs.

Mr. Grabiell indicated that following the election there were letters in the paper apparently from people who had voted no who indicated that the city should come back with another referendum. He asked Decision Resources if they had any ideas or could suggest anything as to what the people of Edina are looking for in terms of parks. Are they looking for more soccer fields, a senior center, and community theatre. Mr. Morris stated that the survey was not a needs assessment survey. Mr. Morris replied that the survey asked how they felt about their parks in general and then asked for their input on specific proposed projects. Two items that really stuck out that people questioned were the bubble at Kuhlman Stadium and the concessions stand at Braemar Park.

Ms. Traxler stated that in answer to Mr. Keprios' question that certainly the Park Board will want to gather all of the information they can. When talking to the opponents find out what motivated them.

Mr. White indicated that it seems like the school district is going to try for a referendum this fall and asked Decision Resources what their recommendation would be as far as a time frame on when to have another referendum. Ms. Traxler replied that she wouldn't do one right away. However, after a well-crafted new package has been put together she would not recommend having it any earlier than next spring.

IV. PROCESS TO MEET IDENTIFIED RECREATIONAL FACILITY NEEDS

Mr. White indicated that one of the first things we need to do as a group is figure out what we are going to do next. First, do we want to approach this as one large group or do we want to form sub-committees and then figure out a plan of action? If we say we want to have sub-committees, then maybe each can be assigned to a different thing. If we only

have one sub-committee then that might affect people's willingness to be on the sub-committee knowing that they are going to have to do 8 different things.

Ms. Wexler commented that she agrees with Decision Resources in terms of time in that it would be just awful to try to put something together for this fall. She noted that her initial reaction is to go for it again and do it next spring and the major ground work would be laid now in terms of what it is we want to do and which groups we want to approach and so on. She stated that a lot will depend on what the school district does this fall and what happens to them.

Mr. Klus indicated that the Mayor is challenging the Park Board and therefore he hopes that we can all find a piece to do and prioritize everything and bring back to the group to discuss. He noted that he thinks that even in light of the new capital improvement plan funding there are a lot of future items that need to get done. He pointed out that there are a lot of things the Park Board can do as a whole group and he hopes everybody takes a part in it.

Ms. Sitek indicated that she thinks first we need to figure what we are going to do before we decide how we are going to do it.

Mr. White asked Mr. Keprios if he thinks there is stomach for another referendum. Mr. Keprios responded that he was just informed that the school district is in fact going to have a referendum on the general election ballot this fall. The referendum will not include funding to renovate or develop any new recreational facilities. Mr. Keprios indicated that he also knows they are not going to have any facility increases for facility uses for the next year. Mr. Keprios commented that, if we are serious about offering another referendum in the near future, there are a couple of things he thinks need to be done. We need to better understand what motivated people to vote no and we need to take time to establish a well thought out Plan B. He indicated that he thinks we need to go right back to the very beginning and start with a needs analysis. How important are each and every one of these improvements that can't be funded through a capital plan. Then we need to hire someone like Decision Resources to test the water and see if we are on the right track.

Mr. Klus asked if we develop that list or do we let them develop the list. Mr. Keprios replied that it is our charge to develop what we perceive to be the need because we have already identified and validated certain needs. He indicated that the big item is the gyms. We need to ask how do we maintain it, how do we operate it and where does the money come from.

Mr. White indicated that his only problem is if we meet once a month by the time we get something of this magnitude done it will be 1 ½ years. Mr. Damman suggested that the Park Board could meet more often. Mr. White indicated that he thinks we have to know where we are going in a year and that he thinks having a referendum next spring is maybe too soon. Mr. Klus noted that at the same time he would hate to see it 1 ½ year away because he thinks we are going to have to work hard on it to get it done and he would

hate to see it take too long and lose momentum. Mr. White commented that he thinks meeting once a month spreads it out too long.

Ms. Wexler indicated that she would like to see a referendum next spring and would not like to see it put off and assuming it would take place in May we have eight months to put it together. She suggested that by next month's meeting everyone bring back a short list of five different groups and/or activities of things that should be addressed in terms of building support for this referendum. At that time maybe we will have a clearer idea of whether it can be done in the next 8 months. Mr. White stated that we would really only have four months to work on this because the City Council would need to see it by January and meeting only once a month he doesn't think it would be possible. Ms. Wexler again stated that she thinks there is enough time before May where we can get a lot of things done.

Mr. Finsness asked Mr. Keprios if we still need a referendum with the money we will be getting. Mr. Keprios replied that the question becomes if you are going to do a referendum what is going to be included, what are we going to ask for the voters to approve. Mr. Keprios pointed out that of the 35 million dollars only 8 million dollars of that money was to renovate existing facilities on city property and only 1.3 million dollars were earmarked for new additional recreational facilities on city-owned parkland. Therefore, only 9.3 million was for city park improvements and the rest was for the school district. It would be his opinion that the voters told us that at the very least 16 million to renovate school projects is something that's not our responsibility. We need to decide how much we want to include. In other words, is there a need for the city to build a new black box theatre or performing arts center, do we want to own and operate new gyms, and if so, where would they go. These are some tough questions that still haven't been answered. We should not hurry up and rush into another referendum because the same people who voted no last time are likely going to vote no again next time unless we present them with a different package that appeals to them.

Mr. Keprios indicated that finding sufficient funding for operating expenses is a complicated issue. A quick fix like just raising revenues through fees and charges may not be a simple solution. He recently heard feedback from the youth basketball community that if they are going to be charged a fee that is too high, then they are going to go to another community to play basketball. Their lack of willingness to pay a higher user fee suggests that maybe they don't need new additional gym time quite that bad. Therefore, maybe their programs ought to be using more Friday nights and weekends or maybe they don't need as many gyms as they had originally proposed. Mr. Keprios stated that he would agree that the city could have a referendum in the spring and he thinks it could pass but he doesn't think that accomplishes what is cast in front of them. Ms. Wexler commented that she could live with doing it next November but she would not want it to go any further than that.

Mr. Keprios pointed out that another thing that people really need to understand is that the most significant additional operating expense wasn't the new gymnasiums. It was the new pool proposed for Valley View Middle School. Mr. Keprios explained that, for

those voters who live within the City of Edina boundaries but not within the Edina School District boundaries, we should not be asking them to vote for any improvements on Edina School District property. He noted that if we propose to make any improvements on School District property, those same people will vote no again.

Mr. White again commented that the one thing that we need to do is identify what needs to be done and this is the group to do that. He asked if this group needs to go out and meet with everybody on the list or should we speed up the process by sending small subgroups of people to meet the people on the list. He noted that while we decide what needs to be done we can all come back with the information from those people and say these are what the vote no people said here's what the vote yes people said. He added that this will impact what we ultimately think needs to be done.

Mr. Keprios informed the Park Board that former Mayors Jim Van Valkenburg and Fred Richards have offered to meet with some of the identified vote no folks and give you a report and noted that he feels the Park Board should encourage them to do that. Mr. White commented that they are a great resource but feels it is something that the Park Board needs to decide and feels if they do this that there would need to be some Park Board members along with them.

Mr. Grabiell indicated we already know what the vote no people didn't like about the referendum and therefore he doesn't see why we should meet with them. It seems the better way to approach this is to figure out what we want to do for park and recreation and then enlist those people and talk about what we think we need to do. We need to start pre-selling these things to the groups who were opposed to the whole package to begin with. We need to identify what we want to do as a Park Board.

Mr. Klus stated that he doesn't think Fred Richards and Jim Van Valkenburg are going to talk to them to find out why they voted no, he thinks they are going to help us to solicit their support and what we are going to be doing as a City in the future. Mr. Grabiell noted that we need to guide this to let people know what it is we think we need to start with and see how it goes. We should not include in the proposal those things that we already know no one is going to vote for.

Mr. White commented that another reason why he thinks certain people were opposed to the referendum was because they didn't feel like they were part of the process. Therefore, if they feel they have some ownership over this from the beginning and adopt some of their ideas he feels they will be less likely to oppose a referendum.

Ms. Presthus indicated that we have identified the needs, we've done a tremendous amount of work on the needs, and we know what they are. We also know what we can afford to pay for ourselves with the money they've given us so we can now take some of those things out. She noted that we can right away take out the ADA compliance items as well as some other items. However, it will become an issue for the Park Board because people will say you were trying to make us pay for every bit of this and now you are saying that the city has found some money. It will become an issue. Mr. Keprios

replied that the city now has to borrow a lot of money to remodel city hall and make the move from the Police Department to the library. The city was hoping to pay for more of that with cash, but because the referendum failed, we now have to go to a borrowing scenario where we are mortgaging our future so that we can have a capital plan today.

Ms. Presthus suggested that a survey be done, using someone else, to ask the voters if it was structured right and what they think we need first of all. We could give them a list of items that they could rank. Mr. Klus asked haven't we already done enough surveys, you just said we already know what our needs are. Ms. Presthus replied that we don't know what the voters think our needs are. She indicated that she is not suggesting asking them what else they would like. She suggested that the survey should ask that, if a new referendum were formed, which of the following items would you like to see included to improve our city. Mr. White stated that, if we can do a survey, we should because the more information we have the better.

Mr. Klus indicated he thought the Blue Ribbon Committee did this for us the last time. Ms. Presthus explained that they identified what the associations thought they needed and not what the voters thought. She indicated that she did not think the voters were represented.

Mr. White asked for a consensus on what the Park Board would like to do right now. Mr. Klus stated that he thinks they should have Fred Richards and Jim Van Valkenburg plan on meeting with the vote no people in a positive way. Ms. Presthus indicated that she agrees it would be a good public relations move because more than anything it will keep the vote no people on board but noted that she feels a Park Board member does need to be there with them. Mr. White and Mr. Klus both noted they would like to attend that as well.

Mr. White asked if it makes any sense to meet with the school district. Ms. Presthus commented that a benefit in meeting with the school district would be to find out what their plans are. Mr. Keprios replied that he can get that information for the Park Board. Mr. White commented that he would like to have a joint meeting with the School Board because they are a player in this and it may be very productive. Ms. Presthus noted that there is a School Board election this fall. Mr. White proposed that they wait on that issue and discuss it after the School Board election.

Mr. White asked about meeting with the people who actively supported the referendum and noted that he doesn't think that needs to be done between now and the next Park Board meeting to which everyone agreed.

Mr. White indicated that he does agree with Ms. Presthus and would like to do a community survey. He asked if the Park Board wants to look at the questions before it goes out and asked if one could be done within the next six weeks. He asked Mr. Keprios if a list of questions could be provided at the next Park Board meeting. Mr. Keprios stated that he thinks a sub-committee needs to suggest a survey and determine the timing

of it. Mr. White stated that a sub-committee needs to be created to put together a survey to bring before the Park Board at the October meeting.

George Klus MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING SUB-COMMITTEE TO WORK ON THE COMMUNITY SURVEY: LINDA PRESTHUS, ARDIS WEXLER, FLOYD GRABIEL AND TOM WHITE. Andy Finsness SECONDED THE MOTION.

V. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Ms. Presthus asked if all of the ADA compliances are going to be done this year. Mr. Keprios replied that the dollars will be allocated for them but because we are getting so late in the season they will probably not all get done. Mr. Keprios commented that there is \$648,000 to spend in 2001 and there obviously is going to be a lot of carry over projects into next year.

Ms. Klus asked if the playground equipment at Edinborough Park is in this year's plan because it sounds like there is a real need for it. Mr. Keprios explained that the capital plan for the general parks does not include any enterprise facilities, which are covered under their own capital plan with a separate funding source. He noted that a new playground at Edinborough is set for 2003 for \$86,000. Mr. Keprios pointed out that the current plan is to convert the ice rink into a unique tot lot. He indicated that the plan will be brought before the Park Board and noted that it will change the character of the park.

Ms. Presthus asked if Heights Park was always in the playground equipment renewal for this year. Mr. Keprios replied that Heights Park originally was not scheduled for this year but because the slide was broken and could not be replaced because replacement parts for that structure are no longer available. Therefore, it has been rescheduled and will be replaced this year.

Mr. White asked the Park Board if they have any additions or deletions for the 2001 capital improvement plan.

Linda Presthus MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2001 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN. Mike Damman SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. White asked Mr. Keprios if he would like a motion for 2002 as well in order to get things started to which Mr. Keprios replied that would be great.

Floyd Grabiell MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2002 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN.

Ms. Presthus indicated that she would rather see the soccer fields at Lewis Park be done before the playground equipment at Normandale Park. Mr. Keprios replied that's a great question and that's part of the debate.

Ms. Wexler asked can we approve the proposed 2002 plan in principle this meeting and make some variations at the next meeting. Mr. Keprios replied yes.

Mr. White indicated that he thought the senior center furnishings were \$100,000. Mr. Keprios indicated that originally the senior furnishings were \$400,000 in the referendum, however, the bids came in low enough on the construction of the senior center that we were able to accomplish a lot of the permanent fixture furnishings through TIF money. Therefore, the CIP will fund \$150,000 next year and the seniors are going to contribute over \$70,000 of their own money for furnishings.

Mr. Finsness asked doesn't it make sense to have all of the athletic fields done at once to which Mr. White replied he would also like to see Lewis Park get started and put off some of the other items. Mr. Keprios pointed out that these are politically sensitive issues and he feels that the Normandale neighborhood will disagree with that approach.

Mr. White asked if it would be possible to put off working at the Rosland Park parking lot for a year and work on the central field at Lewis Park for 2002. Mr. Keprios replied that the central field at Lewis Park is obviously not in real good condition, however, the parking lot at Rosland Park is in very rough condition. Also, they cannot take out too many athletic fields at one time. He noted that he will ask engineering about this and have an answer by the next Park Board meeting.

Mr. White asked to make a friendly amendment to the motion that we consider moving the Rosland Park parking lot and Normandale Park playground to the 2003 plan and move the central athletic field at Lewis Park to the 2002 plan.

Andy Finsness SECONDED THE AMENDMENT.

Mr. Grabiell commented that the friendly amendment is something we can consider and if it doesn't work because we have too many athletic fields out then the staff will do what it needs to do.

ALL IN FAVOR OF THE AMENDMENT

Mr. Keprios indicated that the enterprise facilities can wait until the next Park Board meeting with the exception of the Aquatic Center for 2001, which is every critical.

Floyd Grabiell MOVED TO APPROVE THE AQUATIC CENTER CAPITAL PLAN FOR 2001. George Klus SECONDED THE MOTION.

Mr. Keprios explained to the Park Board that the water slide has been condemned for the rest of the year. Mr. White asked if it is still in the plan to put in a little zero depth L shaped area and asked how much that would cost. Mr. MacHolda replied that the cost for that is approximately \$240,000 and it is not being put in because he is tapped out and is already borrowing money. Mr. MacHolda pointed that he has three amenities that are coming in that he sees primarily as revenue generating amenities. One is the water slide replacement that will now actually have two flumes. Second is to replace a one meter

diving board with a cable ride and the third item is to add a dry play area adjacent to the wet play area for young children.

Mr. White stated that the only thing he is not in favor of is the cable ride because he thinks it will screw up the deep end too much for people who are swimming laps. Mr. MacHolda explained that he has given this a lot of thought and feels that we don't have an amenity for the 10 to 15 year old age bracket and that is an age group that really needs something.

Mr. White MOVED TO ADD AN AMENDMENT TO DELETE THE CABLE RIDE FROM THE AQUATIC CENTER. MOTION FOR AMENDMENT DIED FOR LACK OF A SECOND.

MOTION CARRIED.

VI. OTHER

A. Disc Golf Facility - Mr. Keprios informed the Park Board that he was approached by a Boy Scout looking for an Eagle Scout project and wants to put in a practice disc golf facility at Rosland Park. He noted that he informed the youngster that he has to find a way to help us fund the project and recruit professional help willing to design proper placement of the baskets. He indicated that it will have six baskets or so just to get kids hooked on it and see where it goes from there.

B. Iron Kids Triathlon – Mr. Keprios informed the Park Board that Mr. MacHolda is working very hard with a group to have the first Iron Kids Triathlon that will take place this Sunday at Rosland Park. Ms. Presthus asked what is the age group to which MacHolda replied it's for kids from ages 7 to 14. There are two different categories, the 7 to 10 year olds participate in a 100 meter swim, 3.1 bike race and a .6 run. The kids from ages 11 to 14 participate in a 200 meter swim, 6.2 bike race and a 1.2 run. Everything is held right at Rosland Park. Ms. Presthus asked if this is the only one being held in the Twin Cities to which Mr. MacHolda replied it's the only one being offered in the state.

Mr. Keprios commented that he has received only two negative comments from some of the residents who feel there are getting to be just too many large special events at Rosland Park that require alternate routes for traffic.

C. Baseball - Mr. Keprios handed out an article to the Park Board that comes from the Star Tribune. It indicates the past-time of baseball is fading and kids are showing more interest in non-traditional sports such as skateboarding which is up 118%.

D. Fifty Meter Pools – Mr. Keprios handed out an article that Mr. MacHolda clipped out about 50 meter pools being a dinosaur. It makes the argument that the real money makers are the leisure pools because that's where the numbers are. It's a great article.

E. Money Donations - Mr. Klus indicated that he would like for the Park Board to discuss sometime in the future what can we do with individuals and organizations that are willing to give the City of Edina Park and Recreation money to help build items in the parks. He indicated that he knows of two households that would be willing to give \$40,000 to the city to develop a basketball court. He noted that he would like to find a way to funnel that money appropriately into the city. It would be great if we could get outside help for our capital needs.

Mr. Klus also noted that some of the service clubs he really believes are willing to give larger sums of money to provide bigger amenities which would make a real difference to the community and indicated he would like to see us challenge those groups. Mr. Keprios added that he recently challenged the Lions Club to raise \$100,000 to replace the showmobile for which they would get their name back up on it.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Ardis Wexler MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:40 P.M. Karla Sitek SECONDED THE MOTION. MEETING ADJOURNED.